

Message Text

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SUBJ: FIRST MEETING OF POLITICAL BUREAU OF MESAN

SUMMARY: AT PUBLIC CEREMONY JANUARY 10 MARKING CONCLUSION OF ITS FIRST MEETING, MESAN POLITICAL BUREAU ANNOUNCED THREE RESOLUTIONS REAFFIRMING RESPECT OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND OF INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND PROHIBITING NATIONALIZATION OF PRIVATE GOODS. POLITICAL BUREAU ALSO DECIDED TO ESTABLISH PARTY COMMITTEES THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY BY MAY 31, WHICH PRESUMABLY WILL BE THE FINAL STEP BEFORE ELECTIONS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY.
END SUMMARY.

1. THE POLITICAL BUREAU OF THE CAE'S SOLE POLITICAL PARTY, MESAN, HELD ITS FIRST MEETING JANUARY 5 TO 10, 1978, UNDER THE CHAIRMANSHIP OF EMPEROR BOKASSA IN HIS CAPACITY AS PRESIDENT FOR LIFE OF MESAN. CHARGED UNDER THE DECEMBER 1976 CONSTITUTION WITH SETTING BROAD POLICY DIRECTIONS AND MONITORING THE WORK OF THE GOVERNMENT, THE POLITICAL BUREAU ADOPTED THREE RESOLUTIONS AND A COMMUNIQUE.

2. HUMAN RIGHTS RESOLUTION: THE HUMAN PERSON IS "SACRED". EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO FREE DEVELOPMENT OF HIS PERSON PROVIDED
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HE DOES NOT VIOLATE THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS. EVERYONE HAS THE RIGHT TO LIFE AND CORPORAL INTEGRITY. PERSONAL LIBERTY IS INVOLABLE EXCEPT AS LIMITED BY LAW. FREE DETERMINATION OF PEOPLE IS A FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF DEMOCRACY.

3. NATIONALIZATION RESOLUTION: PRIVATE PROPERTY IS "SACRED". ALL NATIONALIZATION IS PROHIBITED EXCEPT IN CASE OF PUBLIC NEED.

THERE SHALL BE NO DEPRIVATION WITHOUT COMPENSATION.

4. RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS: INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY TAKES ITS REASON FOR BEING AND FORCE FROM INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THESE BE SCRUPULOUSLY OBSERVED. RESPECT OF CAE ENGAGEMENTS IN TREATIES AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS IS RECOMMENDED.

5. COMMUNIQUE: THE POLITICAL BUREAU DECIDED THAT ALL COMMITTEES AND ORGANS OF THE PARTY SHOULD BE IN PLACE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY BY MAY 31. IT ALSO ORDERED PUBLICATION OF A PARTY MAGAZINE AND USE OF THE RADIO TO STRENGTHEN NATIONAL UNITY, AS WELL AS ENFORCEMENT OF THE MONTHLY DUES REQUIREMENT DECREED BY THE 1976 MESAN CONGRESS. IT DEFINED BROAD ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL OBJECTIVES, INCLUDING A REQUEST THAT THE GOVERNMENT TAKE URGENT MEASURES AGAINST ABUSE OF ALCOHOL. THE NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR FEBRUARY 5, 1978.

6. COMMENT: IN THE ABSENCE OF A NATIONAL ASSEMBLY, THE 17-MEMBER POLITICAL BUREAU APPEARS TO BE SERVING A FUNCTION OF A CONSULTATIVE ORGAN INTENDED TO BROADEN THE BASE OF THE REGIME. AS NOTED BANGUI A-050, ITS MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES REPRESENTATIVES OF AGRICULTURAL AND BUSINESS GROUPS FROM OUTSIDE THE CAPITAL AS WELL AS THE TOP LEVEL OF THE GOVERNMENT. ITS REAFFIRMATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS REINFORCES RECENT DECLARATIONS BY THE EMPEROR, WHILE THE DECLARATION OF NATIONALIZATION IS PROBABLY MEANT TO REASSURE THE FOREIGN BUSINESS COMMUNITY. THE COMPLETION OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PARTY STRUCTURE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY BY MAY 31 SHOULD PERMIT THE HOLDING OF ELECTIONS BEFORE THE END OF THE YEAR, SINCE THE CONSTITUTION SPECIFIES THAT THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SHOULD BE IN PLACE WITHIN SIX MONTHS AFTER INSTALLATION OF THE PARTY AUTHORITIES ("INSTANCES").
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